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# The President's Daily Brief

*November 17, 1975*

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PORTUGAL

*The Portuguese Communist Party is continuing its efforts to regain an influential role in government. Yesterday, the party managed to muster more than 20,000 demonstrators to march through Lisbon. The crowd dispersed peacefully.*

The latest surge of Communist pressure in the streets of Lisbon has been largely through manipulation of the construction workers, who have been demanding wage increases and other concessions. The government granted the workers a temporary raise last week--an average increase of 28 percent--but a statement by Labor Minister Tomas Rosa yesterday suggests Lisbon may not grant all the workers' demands. The labor minister told an anti-Communist rally in the northern town of Viseu that the government will not give way to the workers who, he charged, are being used by "politically motivated leaders."

The government's effort to restore discipline in the armed forces is still being undercut by General Otelo de Carvalho. His replacement by an anti-Communist officer was reportedly discussed by the Revolutionary Council on Saturday. President Costa Gomes may be reluctant to fire Carvalho but might approve a plan that would kick the general upstairs to the post of vice chief of staff of the armed forces, a job that at least would remove him from direct contact with radical troops.



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## SPANISH SAHARA

*Spanish efforts over the weekend apparently did nothing to overcome Algerian opposition to the agreement between Spain, Morocco, and Mauritania on Spanish Sahara.*

Neither the Spanish nor the Algerians have commented on the talks held Saturday in Algiers between Madrid's special envoy and Algerian officials. This suggests the discussions did not go well. Yesterday, an Algerian government press statement strongly denounced the Spanish Sahara agreement as a callous move to divide the territory's mineral riches and to deny its inhabitants the right to decide on their own future.

Algiers will probably launch a campaign this week to enlist support in the UN to reverse the agreement. Algeria is reported already threatening to request a special Security Council session to take up the matter as soon as the terms of the agreement are made public. This is expected once the Spanish parliament completes the process--scheduled to start tomorrow--of formally decolonizing the territory.

Both sides will lobby vigorously in the UN. Algerian Foreign Minister Bouteflika has already been at the UN for several weeks, arguing the Algerian case for a self-determination referendum under UN auspices for Spanish Sahara. Moroccan Foreign Minister Laraki arrived in New York yesterday and, together with his Mauritanian counterpart who is expected to arrive shortly, will orchestrate efforts to neutralize the Algerian campaign.



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# ETHIOPIA

*A power struggle in the ruling military council has culminated in increased influence for the chairman, General Teferi Benti, who had previously played a figurehead role. Teferi and his supporters will probably moderate some of the council's policies and try to reach an accommodation with its military and civilian opponents.*

A number of council members have been aware during the past year of declining support for the government in the armed forces and among the public. Key military units have frequently criticized the council's radical socialist policies and its repressive rule. They have also expressed doubt about the qualifications of council members for leadership and have called for more civilian representation in government or even a return to civilian rule.

The emergence of the Teferi group in the council may not end maneuvering within the military. Teferi's own survival will probably depend on his success as arbiter among competing factions within the council and the armed forces.




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NOTES

*Joshua Nkomo, leader of one faction of* Rhodesian *nationalists, has talked several times in Salisbury with Prime Minister Ian Smith during the past few weeks concerning a resumption of settlement talks.*

Nkomo, who is backed by Zambian President Kaunda, hopes to gain support also from Tanzanian President Nyerere and Mozambican President Machel. His prospects may depend on whether Smith shows any signs of compromise. The Prime Minister recently told the South Africans, who have been pressing him to reach a settlement with the Rhodesian nationalists, that he wants to conclude talks with Nkomo by next March. Smith gave no indication that he is ready to agree to an arrangement that would lead to early black rule, and he may be talking with Nkomo only to keep the blacks divided and to try to stave off a resumption of guerrilla warfare.

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Angola.

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